

The Army medical school is to be the first building erected at a cost of \$500,000.

THE returns of the British registrar-general for the quarter ending September, 1921, have been issued. They show that in England and Wales there were 214,850 births, which were 15,017 fewer than in the third quarter of 1920. The rate was 22.5 a year for each thousand of population. The deaths numbered 99,134, and were 9,937 fewer than in the preceding quarter, but 5,444 more than in the third quarter of 1920. The rate was 10.4 per thousand. The infant mortality was 83 per thousand births, being 15 below the average of the ten preceding third quarters.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

AN endowment of \$110,000 for the department of art as applied to medicine has been given to the Johns Hopkins Medical School. The gift, by an anonymous donor, was transmitted to the trustees through Dr. Thomas S. Cullen. This department has been established since 1911, with Max Brodel at its head, the same anonymous donor having provided funds for its maintenance.

WORK has begun at Pomona College, Claremont, California, on a new chemistry building to cost nearly \$250,000. The building will be of reinforced concrete with tile roof and massive tower to conform with the accepted architecture of the college campus. It will provide facilities in undergraduate and research work for 600 students.

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE has received a bequest of \$5,000 from the late Judge Ira A. Abbott for the increase of the salaries of professors.

At a meeting held on December 9, the board of regents of the University of Michigan voted to merge the homeopathic medical school with the medical school of the university. The expense for the maintenance of the homeopathic school was \$47,000 last year and there were seven graduates.

DR. GEORGE J. HEUER, associate professor of surgery at the Johns Hopkins Medical School, has accepted the professorship of surgery in

the Medical College of the University of Cincinnati. By accepting the post, he will automatically become chief of the surgical service of the Cincinnati General Hospital.

PROFESSOR HENRY JORDAN has recently been made head of the department of electrical engineering at Colorado Agricultural College at Fort Collins.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL PRACTICE

THE article "Education in Relation to Public Health and Medical Practice, by Professor S. J. Holmes, which appears in the issue of SCIENCE of November 25, 1921, is a highly interesting presentation of a subject which will merit discussion. Its author, however, falls into the common error of those criticizing another profession than their own, of somewhat overstating the case and taking a too pessimistic view of a situation which is constantly being bettered, as, for instance, when he states that "a large part of the time of well-trained medical men is simply wasted in a kind of desultory practice from which their patients secure no permanent benefit," and that "humanity comes very far short of getting out of the medical profession the aid which it is capable of furnishing." As a matter of fact, there are 106,000,000 persons in this country the vast majority of whom are perfectly well cared for medically. The death rate in our larger cities is constantly falling and there are increasing numbers of organizations devoted exclusively to the study and promulgation of public sanitation which are maintained by physicians who furnish gratuitous time and energy without stint. The laboratory tests which the author enumerates are, for the most part, now taught to every third year medical student and the more elaborate tests of this order are not required by more than four or five per cent. of all patients.

The author further comments upon the ignorance of sanitation among our immigrants (which, of course, is deplorable) and writes that the "uninstructed foreigner" "fails to get competent aid when he is ill."

New York City has admittedly the largest and most varied immigrant population of the country. It has, however, many competent foreign born physicians who care for their own kind, besides many hospitals devoted to the care of special foreign groups, like the Italian, French and Lenox Hill (formerly the German Hospitals, besides several others devoted to Yiddish patients. The Health Board of the city is most active and efficient, together with many other agencies, both public and private, in raising the health standards among the foreign born, and special health lectures are given in different languages in the public schools. The infant mortality of the entire city has never been so low as in the past few years and is a source of amazement to distinguished foreign members of the medical profession who come here. The comments of the author upon the fraudulent medical cults with which the country abounds are well made and nowhere to be better illustrated than in his own quack-beridden state of California, but it is unfair to shift any of the burden of this upon an assumed negligence of the medical profession, which wages constant warfare against it in its county, state, and national associations, only to be defeated time and again by lay legislators. There are too many other operative factors, notably the sensational press, the general restlessness of the times, and indeed the multiplicity of experimental medical tests themselves, which lead patients to compare experiences with one another and seek all manner of examinations whether they need them or not, in order to get their money's worth out of what the author characterizes as "our commercialized system of private practice"—which remark leads one to wonder whether he knows the average income of the legitimate medical practitioner.

W. GILMAN THOMPSON

142 E. 62ND ST.,
NEW YORK CITY

NOTE ON INHERITANCE IN SWINE

THE Berkshire pig is distinguished by the following characters: (1) erect ears, (2) uniform black coat with the exception of "six white points" which occur on the head, on each

foot and on the tail, (3) a short "dished" nose, and (4) a somewhat short and broad body. The Large Black pig is distinguished by (1) "flop" ears, (2) uniform black coat without any white, (3) nose not "dished" and of moderate length, and (4) a long body, somewhat narrower than that of the Berkshire. On a farm near Oxford, pure-bred Large Black boars have for some years been crossed with pure-bred Berkshire sows. About a dozen litters have come under the observation of the author of this note and the F_1 generation has invariably shown (1) erect ears, (2) uniform black coat without any white, and (3 & 4) intermediate features as regards nose and shape of body. Latterly, the reciprocal cross has been made (Berkshire boar and Large Black sow) and the F_1 generation shows (1) erect ears and (3 & 4) intermediate characters. But as regards (2) there has appeared a gradation from pure black to spotted pigs in which the whole coat is fairly evenly divided into black and white patches. At present the numbers are small, but it would appear that the gradation is not uniform between the pure black and the spotted condition. There appear to be three classes—pure black, black with the six Berkshire points and spotted. Further it is noticeable that the true spotted pigs have hitherto all been boars, though pure black boars have also appeared.

It may be suggested that erect ear is a simple dominant. The coat color and other features clearly require considerable analysis. It may be that sex linkage is in some way concerned in coloration.

A. M. CARR-SAUNDERS

DEPARTMENT OF COMPARATIVE ANATOMY,
OXFORD

ON SUMMARIES OF RECENT ADVANCES IN PHYSICS

THE National Research Council has recently issued two valuable pamphlets on the Quantum theory (The Quantum Theory, E. P. Adams, 1920, No. 5; Atomic Structure, David L. Webster, Leigh Page, 1921, No. 14). Similar contributions on other live topics have come, from time to time, from the Bureau of Standards. I wish to express my personal appreciation of